The Local Noodle

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In Response to Active Shooter Threat, Public Safety Reaffirms College Policy of Inaction

In light of the recent active shooter threat, Middlebury's Department of Public Safety has announced that, had there actually been a shooter, they would only have engaged if he had parked in a faculty spot, or was holding an open alcoholic beverage.

"Had the shooter been caught drinking underage, we would have leisurely walked over to offer to hold his AK-47 while he poured his beverage out," Julian "Little Chief" Skidmore, a rookie PubSafe officer, told the Noodle. "We would then have issued a citation, recommended that he meet with a substance abuse counselor, and gone on our merry way."

The college's relaxed approach to campus security may come as a surprise to students, prospective students, and their families. However, the administration and PubSafe have remained firm in that even if they had the surveillance to know of a dangerous situation, their policy is to assume the best and prepare for it, too.

"In fact, at first, when we heard that there was potentially fire in Davis, we assumed it would be of the bonfire variety, not the bullet variety. Our one officer who is up past 10 rubbed his hands together in glee at the idea of issuing a burn permit citation and moseyed on over. Imagine his surprise when he saw the Vermont SWAT team! Poor guy had even brought along his favorite s'mores stick."

Upon facing criticism for the delay in getting a warning out despite the robust testing of the emergency messaging system earlier this month, officers and administrators alluded to the hierarchical bureaucratic nightmare through which text must pass.

"We really tried our best to get a warning out, " said Officer Skidmore, when pressed. "But we had to send the draft emergency message to the Vice President of DEI, and then to the Council on Community Relations, and then through the Police Liaison Office, and finally to the Creative Writing department, who were unavailable as all their desks are in Davis. It's just standard protocol. We have emergency alerts for things like candles indoors, strong aromas of marijuana, broken signs, shattered windows at the bike shop—you know, real threats."

ALL-TERRAIN

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Featured Presentations

An Intersectional Approach to Loving You, bby gorl <3

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Misogyny and the Destruction of the Literary Utopia (I'm 6'2" btw)

'Beet'ing My Meat for You! Nutritional Value of Vegetables in Mutualistic Semi-Carnivorous Diets

The Local Noodle

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DAVID FACTOR *Genuine Schlub*
LUCAS FLEMMING *Jive Turkey*
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CECE CALDWELL *AK Pelletier's Ghost Writer*
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OSCAR FLEET *Rapscallion*
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Earth and Climate Sciences Department to Offer Class on "Unnatural Hazards"

Middlebury's Earth and Climate Sciences Department recently announced that it will be adding a new course to its fall catalog: Unnatural Hazards.

"For years, we've taught students about natural hazards like volcanoes and tsunamis," department chair Sedia Mente explained. "But in today's urban world, the average Middlebury student is much more likely to die of unnatural causes than nature's catastrophes. That's where 'Unnatural Hazards' comes in."

A leaked syllabus for the course shows the breadth of hazards featured; students will begin the semester with a study of wet floors, falling anvils, and banana peels left at the top of large staircases. Moving from the accidental to the intentional, the class will then take a turn towards the dangers of modern life: the ramifications of the inevitable nuclear apocalypse, hired assassins, and really fast cars—from the perspective of both motorists and pedestrians. Lab sections will include basic lessons in self-defense and something called "street smarts."

"I'm really excited to take this class, but I'm confused why it still qualifies as a science credit," one obnoxious student, who doesn't realize how lucky she is, told the Noodle this morning. "I also thought we would talk a lot more about vampires and zombies, but this is fine too, I guess."

"Taking this class will teach me valuable life lessons, like to look both ways before crossing the street, and to not step blindly into open potholes," added Sub Urbia '24.

The department for Earth and Climate Sciences anticipates full enrollment in the fall. "This is the most student attention paid to our department since Earth left the Stone Age. Which is coincidentally also when most of our professors got their PhDs."

Aliens Decide Not to Contact Earth After Intercepting WRMC Signals

Top: An alien grimaces through some intercepted giggles from the FM waves.

The *Local Noodle* recently learned that extraterrestrial beings from an unknown planet chose not to contact Earth this weekend after intercepting signals from Middlebury's WRMC station.

"Yeah, we were thinking about it," one alien said via commlink from an Unidentified Flying Object seen fleeing Earth's orbit. "We had some really cool things to share, like the theory of everything and how to cure cancer. Unfortunately, during a routine scan of radio telecommunications, we intercepted some strange signals from just outside Rutland, Vermont, that made us ponder: do we really want to be doing this?"

The aliens refused to specify which radio shows changed their mind. However, investigative reporting reveals that, at the time they entered the Earth's orbit, WRMC broadcasted three shows: E*speranto Songs I Like, Songs I Would Play to Rachel If She Loved Me Back (Hi Rachel I Know You're Listening You B**ch*), and an unnamed program that consisted of two sophomore guys "hanging out" and "talking about life and basketball."

When asked how they felt about their radio programs having such enormous geopolitical and scientific impacts, WRMC presidents Indy Ubergrönd '24 and Tameimp Alafan '23.5 were unapologetic. Said Ubergrond, "WRMC is the premiere place for desperately lonely people, pretentious music snobs, and future male podcasters to find their voice."

Alafan added, "If those voices were scary enough to dissuade a bunch of extraterrestrials from making contact, so be it. Yes, the scientific, environmental, and political implications of aliens coming to Earth would have been 'big.' But so is my radio show, which airs Tuesday nights from 10–11 pm Eastern, entitled, Songs My Divorced Step-Dad Listens to While Cleaning the *Garage (and that I Think Are Just Okay)*."

Injured? Accident?

Did your great-great-grandpa say, "The fact that if a defective marry a defective, as is very often the case, the offspring will inherit the taints of both parents. That this class is prolific, knowing no law of self-restraint, and consequently defectives are increasing in numbers and are of a more pronounced type?"

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Little Seed Opens Sperm Bank for Local Short Kings

Last Monday, Little Seed Cafe announced the hard launch of a sperm bank to connect local short kings with adequate suitoresses. Operated in collaboration with Porter Medical Center and located in the cafe's basement, the sperm bank promises to make sure "all sperm matter."

"We wanted to start something that discriminated against the 6'4" Eim A-Jimrats that dominate the local Tinder scene. At Little Seed, our job is to foster community, and by opening the sperm bank, we are finally addressing a soon-to-be deep seeded issue. Enough with the social eugenics, we want to reproduce!" exclaimed Short Shannon III, a 5'5" 21 year-old who has long lived in the shadow of his twin brother, Tall Shannon, Jr.

On opening day, the quaint coffee shop was overwhelmed with willing candidates, and had to unexpectedly lower its maximum height requirement. "Think of it as colorblind affirmative action, we don't judge based on the color of your tip or the quality of your face, just on the amount that you blow! But if your head is too high, you won't be let on this ride!" chuckled owner Chae Ti.

The larger small-statured Middlebury community has expressed nothing but intense interest in the sperm bank.

"I'm 5 '10" and that's never been enough for the chicks that I've digged. I read Sylvia Plath, played Catan, and even gave good back rubs. But because I couldn't reach the cookie jar on top of the fridge without a footstool she breaks up with me?" Drinks DaDrip, Little Seed barista turned sperm surveyor, complained. "The sperm bank promises to tackle problems close to my heart – and my feet, since the distance between the two is so minimal. And just so everyone at home knows, short kings come well endowed too."

Top: New signage debuted at the sperm bank pop-up event.

Community Distant Family Member Program to Offer Uncomfortable Interactions, $15 Stipends

After the success of Middlebury's Community Friends program, the group is expanding with a new initiative: Community Distant Family Member. While the friends program creates a support system for young citizens of Middlebury, this offshoot program would instead provide family-like support networks for college students.

"Since I started attending Middlebury College, I've really missed that familial yet emotionally repressed connection," says Emogen Eration '24. "I am so glad to find that in the Community Distant Family Member program."

The organization allows for many valuable opportunities such as invasive conversations about "when you're going to bring kids into this world" and Hallmark birthday cards with a signature and $15 cash.

To adequately serve the Middlebury student body, Counseling Services and the Center for Community Engagement have teamed up to collect an eccentric bunch of middle-aged locals that fit the following criteria: mildly off putting, highly skilled in uncomfortable small talk, and the ability to linger in tightly wound hugs. During training, 'family members' are educated in alarming detail on the personal lives of students to ensure accurately agonizing conversation topics. Some concern has been voiced about the lack of supervision and the requirement of sharing your location, but as Shidivorced Mi, the program's spokesperson explained, "The fear of being in their presence just makes the experience feel all the more genuine."

"I am overjoyed to meet my little rascals," says new community family member Richard "Uncle Dickey" Hanson. "Last time I saw them they were yea high! And by that I mean absolutely tripping balls."

The program's announcement has the campus buzzing with excitement. Dining Services is currently planning new themed menus, such as "Weekend at Dad's," which will feature familiar treats such as a tepid bowl of ramen and a can of olives. Facilities is also hard at work to bring back the Adirondack chairs just in time for students to give their community distant family member a foot rub accompanied by middle-aged grunts of pleasure.